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U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of Airport Safety and
Standards

800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

MAR 8 2001

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. James P. Huey, President
Board of Commissioners
Orleans Levee District
Administration Building, Suite 202
6001 Stars and Stripes Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70126-8006

Dear Mr. Huey:


The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has completed its review of the New Orleans Lakefront Airport (NEW) preliminary application for participation in the Airport Privatization Pilot Program. We are pleased to inform you that the preliminary application has been accepted for review. The Levee District may select a private operator, negotiate an agreement, and submit a final application to the FAA for exemption under the pilot program.

The filing date of this preliminary application was January 19, 2001, the date the preliminary application was sufficient to qualify for acceptance for review. The acceptance of this preliminary application is contingent upon the Levee District's continued compliance with the procedural requirements of 49 U.S.C. §47134. Under §47134, an exemption may be granted under the pilot program for the lease of New Orleans lakefront Airport.

According to your preliminary application, the Levee District will submit its final application on or by May 9, 2001. Please include in your submission a copy of the private operator's business plan and traffic forecast. If the application is not submitted by that time, we would appreciate an update as to when the Levee District plans on submitting its final application. A request for an extension of time should also include an explanation for the delay and a revised timetable.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Willis at 202 267-8741.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DLB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David L. Bennett
Director, Office of Airport Safety and
Standards

cc: Steve Steckler, President, IMG